

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to join a number of our colleagues in marking the 25th annual observance of International Women's Day.

Today, March 8, 2000, is a day on which people around the world will celebrate the myriad contributions and accomplishments of women.

Women in the United States and around the world have made tremendous progress toward full equality since this observance was initiated by the United Nations in 1975, the International Year of the Woman.

Sadly, that progress has been tempered by the continued prevalence—and in some places the troubling acceptance and even encouragement—of gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence.

No one disputes that women in the United States have come a long way in the quarter century since the first International Women's Day was observed. Women are making significant contributions at every level of our society and in every level of government, from local school boards to the President's Cabinet.

But we must do more. Quality, affordable child care must be more accessible. Women should not have to choose between taking care of their children and the job that they need to provide the basic necessities of food, clothing, and shelter for their families.

The glass ceiling, while perhaps a bit cracked, still blocks the progress of many women who work outside the home. And women who work outside of the home deserve equal pay for equal work. We must do all we can to close the wage gap between women and their male counterparts.

In the United States, March is National Women's History Month. This month we celebrate the contributions of women such as Carrie Chapman Catt, a native of Ripon, Wisconsin, who served as the last president of the National American Women Suffrage Association, and was the founder and first president of the National League of Women Voters. Her influence on the direction and success of the suffrage movement is legendary, and her legacy in grassroots organizing is equally significant. She led a tireless lobbying campaign in Congress, sent letters and telegrams, and eventually met directly with the President—using all the tools of direct action with which political organizers are now so familiar today.

Catt's crusade for suffrage saw a home front victory on June 10, 1919, when Wisconsin became the first state to deliver ratification of the constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote before it was adopted as the Nineteenth Amendment in August of 1920.

Carrie Chapman Catt's legacy is alive and well today as women around the

globe become more active in their communities and in the political process.

As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations, I had the opportunity late last year to travel to ten African nations. During my trip, I saw first-hand the important role that women play in every aspect of society in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Rwanda, I was struck by the generosity and far-sightedness of a woman I met just outside the capital city of Kigali. She had donated land to refugees from different ethnic backgrounds and was helping them to build a new, integrated community on that property. It is this kind of selfless act that will help to build the bridges that are necessary to heal the wounds left by the ethnic violence in that country.

While in Uganda, I had the opportunity to meet with female legislators and the Minister of Ethics and Integrity, who happens to be female. Africa can only benefit from the women who are taking an active role in governing.

Women's voices also need to be heard in ongoing peace negotiations around the globe. For example, it is crucial that women be included in the inter-Congolese dialogue, and that they be allowed to participate fully in Rwanda's justice system.

On a more somber note, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has ravaged the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. This disease affects women at a significantly higher rate than men. We need to be vigilant in preventing mother-to-child transmission and in promoting programs at home and abroad that educate women about reproductive choices and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

I would also like to take this opportunity, as we honor all women and girls worldwide, to again call for prompt hearings in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, of which I am a member, on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). CEDAW marked its 20th anniversary last year and still has not been ratified by one of its chief architects—the United States. The Senate should fulfill its constitutional responsibility to offer its advice and consent on this treaty.

Mr. President, as the father of two daughters, I believe we must do all we can to improve the status of women in the United States and around the world. Respect for basic human rights—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation—is a fundamental value that we must pass on to our children and grandchildren.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, in honor of International Women's Day, I respectfully call upon my friend, the

Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to hold hearings on an international treaty to fight discrimination against women around the world.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations in 1979 and signed by President Carter in 1980. It is a comprehensive and detailed international agreement to promote the equality of women and men. It legally defines discrimination against women for the first time and establishes rights for women in areas not previously covered by international law. More than 160 countries have ratified CEDAW, including all of our European allies and most of our important trading partners. It is well past high-time that the United States Senate take up and ratify this important international agreement.

In 1988, I convened field hearings on CEDAW in Massachusetts to highlight the importance of this treaty to American women. In the years that followed, I was pleased to support the efforts of former Senator Claiborne Pell, then-chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, to develop a resolution of ratification of CEDAW. In 1994, thanks to Senator Pell's leadership, the Foreign Relations Committee voted 13 to 5 to report the Convention favorably with a resolution of ratification to the Senate for its advice and consent. Despite support for ratification from Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle, many state legislatures, the Clinton administration, and from the American public, opponents of this treaty blocked its consideration by the full Senate.

The resolution of ratification for CEDAW could be taken up tomorrow, if there was the political will in the Senate to do so. Ratification of CEDAW will strengthen our continuing efforts to ensure that women around the world are treated fairly and have the opportunity to realize their full potential. It will send a clear signal of our commitment to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and it will underscore the importance we assign to international efforts to promote the rights of women. By allowing us to participate in the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, ratification will give us a bigger voice in shaping international policies that affect women.

Our failure to ratify has encouraged criticism from allies who cannot understand our refusal to uphold rights that are already found within the provisions of our own Constitution. It has put us in the same category with a small and very undistinguished minority of countries who have not ratified CEDAW, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran and Sudan. It is difficult for the United States to criticize the terrible treatment of women in these

and other nations when we have not yet recognized those rights as international legal standards.

CEDAW is an important human rights document that is largely consistent with the existing state and federal laws of the United States. Senate advice and consent to this Convention will demonstrate U.S. leadership in the fight for women around the world.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today is a very special day for millions of women around the world. Today is a day that celebrates the promise of a better future. Today is a day that offers the hope that injustices inflicted on too many women in too many societies will disappear from the earth forever. Today, March 8, 2000, is International Women's Day.

I rise today to recognize this day's importance to the women of today and to the generations of women to come. I rise to cry shame for our failures in fulfilling this day's promise. And, I rise to direct our attention to three critical issues: the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW, international family planning, and the international trafficking of women and girls. These are issues in which the United States, and especially this body, are honor-bound to spare no effort in leading the international community to improve the status of women around the world.

In 1948, the United Nations dramatically focused world attention on the international human rights agenda when it adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This historic event aimed at increasing public awareness of the need to better the human condition in many places throughout the globe. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights represented a milestone in human history. Regrettably, it glossed over the needs of over half the world's population—women.

Women's rights remained unrecognized as a legitimate concern until the Convention to Eliminate all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW, was drafted to redress this oversight. CEDAW organized all existing international standards regarding discrimination on the basis of gender, and established rights for women in areas not previously subject to international standards. The United States actively participated in drafting of the Convention; President Carter signed it on July 17, 1980.

Then the U.S. did nothing. For fourteen years, the United States scrutinized CEDAW with an intense scrutiny normally reserved for judging the merits of a technically demanding international agreement, not a document seeking to establish the fundamental human rights of over half the world's population. CEDAW was not sent to the Senate until September, 1994.

In 1994, the Foreign Relations Committee recommended by bi-partisan

vote that CEDAW be approved with qualifications, but acted too late in the session for the Convention to be considered by the full Senate.

Now, almost six years later, the Convention continues to languish in the Senate, locked up in the Committee on Foreign Relations. A bi-partisan group of women Senators, among whom I am proud to be counted, has sponsored Senate Resolution 237 which expresses the sense of the Senate that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should hold hearings on CEDAW and that the full Senate should act on CEDAW by March 8, 2000.

Today is March 8, 2000. The date has come, and will go, and this body has yet to take substantive action on CEDAW, even though this Convention contains no provisions in conflict with American law.

The Convention has been ratified by 161 countries. Of the world's democracies, only the United States has yet to ratify this fundamental document. Indeed, even countries we regularly censure for human rights abuses—China, the People's Republic of Laos, Iraq—have either signed or agreed in principle. In our failure to ratify CEDAW, we now keep company with a select few—Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Afghanistan among them. Remember, as the old saying goes, we are judged by the company we keep. Is this how we want to be known when it comes to defending the human rights of those unable to defend themselves?

In failing to sign on to this Convention, we risk losing our moral right to lead on human rights. By ratifying CEDAW, we will demonstrate our commitment to promoting equality and to protecting women's rights throughout the world. By ratifying CEDAW, we will send a strong message to the international community that the U.S. understands the challenges faced by discrimination against women, and we will not abide by it. By ratifying CEDAW, we reestablish our credentials as a leader on human rights and women's rights.

Today, as we commemorate International Women's Day, I call on my colleagues in the Senate to move forward and ratify CEDAW.

The second issue I would like to touch on today is one which has seen much congressional attention in recent years: U.S. support for international family planning and reproductive health.

The world now has more than 6 billion people. The United Nations estimates this figure could be 12 billion by the year 2050. Almost all of this growth will occur in the places least able to bear up under the pressures of massive population increases. The brunt will be in developing countries lacking the resources needed to provide basic health or education services. If women are to be able to better their own lives and

the lives of their families, they must have access to the educational and medical resources needed to control their reproductive destinies and their health.

International family planning programs reduce poverty, improve health and raise living standards around the world; they enhance the ability of couples and individuals to determine the number and spacing of their children.

Under the leadership of both Democratic and Republican Presidents, and under Congresses controlled by Democrats and Republicans alike, the United States has established a long and distinguished record of world leadership on international family planning and reproductive health issues.

Unfortunately, in recent years these programs have come under increasing partisan attack, despite the fact that no U.S. international family planning funds are spent on international abortion.

The Fiscal Year 2000 omnibus appropriations bill contained "Mexico City" restrictions that prohibit U.S. grants to private foreign non-governmental organizations that perform abortions or lobby to change abortion laws in foreign countries. House leaders insisted on these provisions in exchange for acceptance of arrear payments to the United Nations.

I was disappointed that the bill included this language. I voted in favor of the legislation because I thought it critical that we pay our back dues to the United Nations, and because it contained a provision granting Presidential authority—which President Clinton later exercised—to waive the restrictions through the end of Fiscal Year 2000. I am pleased the President took this action and that he announced that he would oppose any attempt to renew the "Mexico City" restrictions when they expire on September 30, 2000.

International family planning programs have experienced significant cuts in funding in recent years. President Clinton's foreign aid budget for Fiscal Year 2001 calls for \$542 million for international family planning programs, restoring funding to Fiscal Year 1995 levels.

Today, as we mark International Women's Day, I urge my colleagues to recommit themselves to U.S. leadership in international family planning and support the President's request.

Lastly, I would like to focus attention on a vicious, and growing problem for women the world over—forced or coerced trafficking of girls and women for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

This is a rapidly growing, highly lucrative international business. The United Nations estimates that every year millions of women fall victims to this international trafficking in human life. Criminal organizations make an estimated \$7 billion a year on the trafficking and prostitution of approximately 4 million women and girls.

They do so by preying on the fears and economic insecurity created by the grinding poverty, rising unemployment and disintegrating social networks common to many poorer societies, today.

The traffickers target women from Eastern Europe and East Asia, women who agree to work as waitresses, models or dancers in the industrialized world to escape the grip of poverty in their native lands. But, once they arrive, their passports are seized, they are beaten, held captive and forced into prostitution. Traffickers and pimps hold these women in bondage, forcing them to work uncompensated as repayment for exaggerated room, board, and travel expenses.

These victims have little or no legal protection; they travel on falsified documents or enter by means of inappropriate visas provided by traffickers. When and if discovered by the police, these women are usually treated as illegal aliens and deported. Even worse, laws against traffickers who engage in forced prostitution, rape, kidnaping, and assault and battery are rarely enforced. The women will not testify against traffickers out of fear of retribution, the threat of deportation, and humiliation for their actions.

We, as a nation, cannot sit idly and allow this vicious exploitation of women to continue unchecked. We must effectively enforce current laws and implement new laws to protect victims and prosecute traffickers. I am proud to be a cosponsor of Senator WELLSTONE's International Trafficking of Women and Children Victim Protection Act of 1999 which provides more information on trafficking and toughens law dealing with the illegal trade of women.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital piece of legislation.

The issues I have laid before you today are not just women's issues, they are humanity's issues. As First Lady Hillary Clinton has said, 'Women's rights are human rights and human rights are women's rights.' They merit attention throughout the year, not just on one day.

We must debate and ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. We must rededicate ourselves and our resources to international family planning programs. And we must enact tough anti-trafficking legislation.

#### NOMINATION OF JAMES DUFFY TO THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I am fully aware that this is a busy year, the year we elect a new President. I also realize that one-third of our colleagues will be up for reelection or will be involved in the election for the seat from

which they are retiring. As a result, all of us are striving to close this shop as soon as possible and go home. However, we do have important unfinished business with the Judiciary.

The Judiciary is the critical third branch of our government. Just as it is important that we hold an election this year, it is important that we fill the vacancies in our court system. I cannot speak of vacancies in other districts or other circuits, but I believe I can speak of vacancies in the Ninth Circuit. Hawaii is part of the Ninth Circuit. Since the retirement of Judge Choy in 1984, Hawaii has not been represented on that bench by a full-time Circuit Judge. The law of the United States requires that at least one member of the bench of each state be represented on the Circuit Court, that there be a judge from Hawaii on the Ninth Circuit.

The Hawaii delegation has submitted the name of James Duffy. I have no idea whether Mr. Duffy is a Democrat or Republican. I have not asked him. However, his reputation as a skilled lawyer is well-established in our islands. Mr. Duffy was born and raised in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Saint Thomas and earned his Juris Doctorate from Marquette University Law School in 1968 where he served on the Board of Editors of the Law Review. Upon graduation, he came to Hawaii to begin his career. He has spent his legal career in private litigation practice, doing both plaintiff and defense representation, for more than 31 years. He has served the Circuit Courts of the State of Hawaii as a court-appointed Special Master in Probate, Guardianship, and Family Court Proceedings, as a Special Master for Discovery Rulings in civil cases, and as a Mediator. Mr. Duffy has also served in leadership roles in legal organizations, educational organizations, and even as a judge in the Hawaii High School Rodeo Association. In his spare time, he and his wife, Jeanne, breed and sell quarter horses and Brahma cattle. Mr. Duffy is a vital part of the Hawaii legal and civic community.

Jim Duffy was nominated by the President for a position on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on June 17, 1999. I have been advised that the American Bar Association has finished reviewing his credentials. Mr. Duffy was unanimously given the ABA's highest grade of "well-qualified." The Board of Directors of the Hawaii State Bar Association also unanimously reported that Mr. Duffy was well-qualified. In fact, in a letter to the Chairperson of the ABA's Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary, the HSBA President wrote, "[f]or what it's worth, my Board expressed dismay that there wasn't a category called 'the very best.' We consider Jim to be the best of the best."

Both Democrats and Republicans in my state, regard Jim Duffy as one of

Hawaii's best lawyers. I do hope the Judiciary Committee will give Mr. Duffy a hearing and expedite the consideration of his nomination. This will provide its members the opportunity to meet him and review his credentials and skills. I am convinced the members will be impressed by him. I am equally convinced that Mr. Duffy will be a good judge.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am pleased that President Clinton announced yesterday his decision to visit Pakistan during his upcoming trip to South Asia. During my recent visit to Pakistan, I met at length with General Musharraf and discussed a number of critically important issues including the prompt restoration of democracy in Pakistan, nuclear arms restraint by both India and Pakistan, and the need to fight global terrorism. The President's upcoming trip will provide an opportunity to continue this dialogue with both Pakistan and India in a manner that can, hopefully, bring lasting peace and economic stability to the region. The fact that both Pakistan and India have nuclear weapons makes it imperative for the United States to facilitate a resolution of a major problem in South Asia—the Kashmir dispute.

#### BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements of Senate scorekeeping of Section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the budget through March 6, 2000. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2000 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget (H. Con. Res. 68). The budget resolution figures incorporate revisions submitted to the Senate to reflect funding for emergency requirements, disability reviews, adoption assistance, the earned income tax credit initiative, and arrearages for international organizations, peacekeeping, and multilateral banks.

The estimates show that current level spending is above the budget resolution by \$10.3 billion in budget authority and below the budget resolution by \$2.3 billion in outlays. Current level is \$17.8 billion above the revenue floor in 2000. The current estimate of the deficit for purposes of calculating the